

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on January 8, 2001, in the Southern District of Florida, West Palm Beach, FL, Shahriar Ekbatani pled guilty to one count of receiving illegal kickbacks.

The plea was a result of an indictment charging Ekbatani and others with false claims, conspiracy, mail fraud, kickbacks and failure to file a tax return in a scheme which involved providing false information on a Government healthcare cost report.

If convicted, Ekbatani faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$25,000. A special assessment of \$100 will also be imposed.